



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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patent application of:) Date: January 18, 2006
Ronald P. Sansone) Attorney Docket No.: E-985
Serial No.: 09/818,800) Customer No.: 00919
Filed: March 27, 2001) Group Art Unit: 3639
Confirmation No.: 9888) Examiner: Jon M. Bass
Title: MESSAGING SERVICES FOR UNIQUELY IDENTIFIED MAIL

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF (PATENT APPLICATION 37 CFR 41.37)

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith in **triplicate** is the **APPEAL BRIEF** in the above-identified patent application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on November 23, 2005.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 41.37, the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is \$500.00

Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$500.00 to cover the above fees.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **16-1885**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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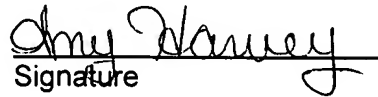
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

) Attorney Docket No.: E-985

Ronald P. Sansone

) Group Art Unit: 3639

Serial No.: 09/818,800

) Examiner: Jon M. Bass

Filed: March 27, 2001

) Date: January 18, 2006

Confirmation No.: 9888

) Customer No.: 00919

Title: **Messaging Services For Uniquely Identified Mail**

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on
November 23, 2005.

This Brief is transmitted in triplicate.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

This brief contains these items under the following headings and in the order set forth below:

- I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST
- II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES
- III. STATUS OF CLAIMS
- IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS
- V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER
- VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL
- VII. ARGUMENTS
- VIII. APPENDIX OF CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL
- IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX
- X. RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

I REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Pitney Bowes Inc. is the real party in interest.

II RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

A. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/818,480 entitled "Recipient Elected Messaging Services For Mail That Is Transported In Trays Or Tubs" may directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

B. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/818,792 entitled "Recipient Elected Messaging Services" may directly affect or be directed affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

C. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/817,998 entitled "Messaging Services For The Visually Impaired" may directly affect or be directed affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

III STATUS OF CLAIMS

- a) Claims 1 - 31 are in the application.
- b) Claims 1 - 31 are rejected.
- c) Claims 1 - 31 are on appeal.

IV STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment subsequent to the August 25, 2005, Final Rejection was filed on October 24, 2005. This Amendment was not entered.

V SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A. Background

The prior art does not provide a method in which a recipient was notified electronically by a carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail; and delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified electronically by the recipient to the carrier.

Ever since the numeric codification of streets and buildings received general acceptance, an individual's name and household postal address have been linked. The sender of a letter or package would deliver a letter or package to the post that had the correct recipient postal address, and the post would deliver the letter or package to the numeric street address of the recipient of the letter or package. A correct recipient postal address for the delivery of the letter or package to the recipient included the name of the recipient; the street address of the recipient; the city and state of the recipient; and the zip code of the recipient. Thus, the correct recipient postal address is usually the actual location of the recipient.

Typically, it takes the post three to five days to deliver letters and/or packages to a recipient. Sometimes, recipients of letters and packages like to know what letters and packages they are going to receive before they receive

them. For instance, if someone is going on a trip, they may want to receive their bills, i.e., credit card, electric, gas, oil, hospital, doctor, etc., before they leave on the trip so that they may pay the bills before a finance charge for late payment of the bill is applied to their account. Someone may also want to receive a package before they go on a trip so that they may take the contents of the package on the trip. The recipient may also want to delay delivery of a particular letter or package until they return from their trip. The reason for the foregoing may be that the recipient does not want to retrieve the letter or package at the post office or have the letter or package waiting at a vacant house.

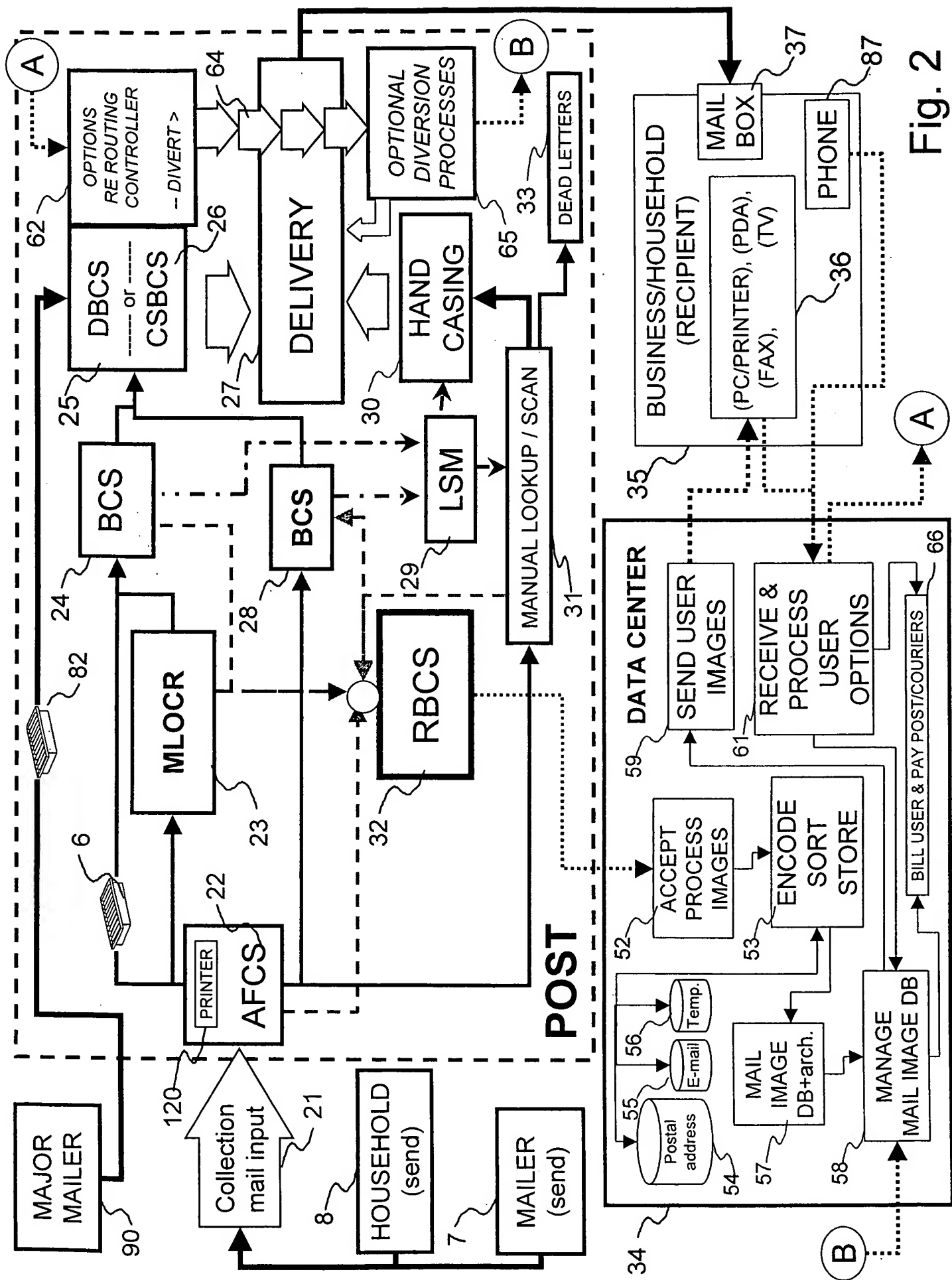
B. APPELLANT'S CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention provides a method in which a recipient is notified electronically by a carrier of the availability of deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail; and the mail is delivered to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified electronically by the recipient to the carrier.

The claimed invention allows the carrier to uniquely identify each piece or parcel of mail (even if they are from the same sender to the same recipient on the same day) so that the mail may be more easily identified by the carrier, sender and the recipient. For instance, the recipient may want the mail physically delivered to their house faster or slower, or the mail physically redirected to the recipient's temporary address, or physically delivered to the recipient's agent, or physically delivered to the recipient's attorney, or physically

Fig. 2 is a drawing showing how this invention may be used by a post in the processing of letters. Letter mail that is deposited in trays 6 and delivered to the post is read by reader 23. Collection letter mail may be metered letter mail that is produced at a mailer site 7 or a sender household 8 by a postage meter or a personal computer meter; stamped mail; or permit mail. Collection letter mail is placed in collection mail input 21, i.e., mail boxes or delivered to the United States Postal Service unsorted. Collection letter mail is sent to advanced facer canceller (hereinafter "AFCS") 22. AFCS 22 first faces the letter mail. Then AFCS 22 electronically identifies and separates prebarcoded mail, handwritten addresses and machine-imprinted address pieces for faster processing through automation. A printer 120 or AFCS 22 will print unique number 110 on mailpieces 11, 15 and 19 (Figs 1A, 1B, 1C). Unique number 110 may contain the serial number of printer 120 plus a unit count of the mailpiece printed or the serial number of AFCS 22 plus a unit count of the mailpiece printed. Letter mail that AFCS 22 determines is optical character readable is sent to multi-line optical character reader/code printer (hereinafter "MLOCR") 23. Reader 23 reads the entire address on the letter mail; sprays a bar code on the mail; and then sorts the mail. Letter mail that is able to be scanned and sorted by reader 23 is sent to bar code sorter/code printer 24. Letter mail that the mailer has prebarcoded and contains a facing identification mark is sent to bar code sorter/ code printer (hereinafter "BCS") 24.

Trayed mail 82 (mail in which the sender is entitled to discounts) that is produced at a major mailer site 90 (Fig. 5) is sent to a delivery bar code



returned to the mailer, or have the carrier open the physical mail and have the carrier e-mail or fax the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient and/or parties designated by the recipient.

Claim 1, the only independent claim in this patent application, relates to a method that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants mail delivered. More particularly, claim 1 includes the following steps:

depositing with the carrier mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address;

placing a unique number on the mail;

capturing by electronic and optical means the name, physical address of the recipient and the sender, and the unique number;

translating the name and physical address of the recipient into an e-mail address by checking a postal address database and the recipient's e-mail database;

notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail;

notifying the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; and

delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

sorter/code printer (hereinafter "BCS") 25 or a carrier sequence bar code sorter/code printer (hereinafter "CSBCS") 26. Sorters 25 and 26 sort the letter mail in the order that the mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27. Letter mail that AFCS 22 determines is not optical character readable is sent to bar code sorter/code printer 28. Letter mail that AFCS 22 obtains electronic images from and letter mail that reader 23 obtains electronic images from transfers the electronic images to remote bar code system (hereinafter RBCS") 32. System 32 matches the look up zip code for the letter mailpieces from AFCS 22 and merges them. System 32 electronically transmits the bar code information to sorter 28 where the bar code information is sprayed on the mailpieces. Letter mail that is able to be scanned and sorted by sorters 24 and 28 is sent to a delivery bar code sorter 25. Sorters 25 and 26 sort the letter mail in the order that the mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27, or hold the mail for recipient diversion for a specified period of time in divert mail options rerouting controller 62.

Letter mail that can not be scanned and sorted by sorters 24 and 28 is sent to letter sort machine (hereinafter "LSM") 29. Letter mail that can be sorted by LSM 29 is sent to postal hand casing 30. Postal hand casing 30 is the process in which the postal carrier sorts the letter mail in the order that the letter mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27. Letter mail that can not be sorted by LSM 29 is sent to manual process 31. Manual process 31 attempts to classify the previously rejected mailpiece to: redirect the mailpiece; declare the mailpiece dead; or manually re-code the mailpiece for redelivery. Then the mailpieces that have not been processed in manual lookup and scan sortation

process 31 are sent to dead letters 33. In process 31 an operator may determine the address of the recipient and produce a label to be placed on the letter mail. Then the letter mail would go to postal hold casing 30 where the mail is sorted in the order that the mail is going to be delivered by postal carrier 27.

Letter mail that can not be faced and cancelled by AFCS 22 is sent to manual process 31. Manual process 31 attempts to classify the previously rejected letter mailpiece to redirect the mailpiece; declare the mailpiece dead; or manually re-code the mailpiece for redelivery. Then the letter mail that manual process 31 is able to classify is sent to postal carrier casing 30 before it is delivered by postal carrier 27.

RBCS 32 electronically transmits the bar code information that represents the destination of the letter mailpiece and the party to whom the mailpiece is to be delivered and the image of the face of the mailpiece to data center 34. The aforementioned scanners scan all of the information appearing on the face of the letter, i.e., the sender's name and address 12 (Fig. 1A), the recipient's name and address 13 and postal indicia 14. The scanned information is transferred to accept process images 52. Then the information is sent to encode, sort, store 53. At this point, the recipient's physical address is verified by checking postal address data base 54, and the recipient's e-mail address is determined from e-mail data base 55. Temporary data base 56 is then searched to determine whether or not the recipient has left any forwarding addresses. Encode 53 then encodes and sorts the information obtained from data bases 54, 55 and 56.

The aforementioned encoded and sorted information is stored in mail

image data base 57. Then the mail image information is sent to manage mail image 58 where the various options and the costs associated therewith that the recipient may have for delivering the information contained in the letter is determined. Then the mail images and options that the recipient has for receiving the letter is sent to images 59, where the information appearing on the face of the letter in alphanumeric and graphic form and the options in alphanumeric and graphic form the recipient has for receiving the letter are transmitted to receiving device 36 (personal computer, television, facsimile machine, personal data assistant, etc.), which is located at the recipient's business or household 35. The options that the recipient has for diverting the letter are described in the description of Fig. 4.

The recipient may use device 36 (personal computer, facsimile machine, personal data assistant, etc.) located at the recipient's business or household 35 to inform receive and process user options 61, located at data center 34, of the manner in which the letter mail should be delivered. The recipient may also use a touch tone and/or voice telephone 87 to inform options 61 of the manner in which the recipient would like the letter mail displayed on the receiving device 36, i.e., television delivered. For instance, the recipient may want the letter mail physically delivered to the recipient's house faster or slower, or the letter mail physically redirected to the recipients temporary address, or physically delivered to the recipient's agent, or physically delivered to the recipient's attorney, or physically returned to the mailer, or have the post open the letter mail and have the post e-mail or fax the contents of the letter mail to the recipient and/or parties

designated by the recipient.

At this juncture, the recipient may inform options 61 via a device 36 of the manner in which the recipient would like the letter mail processed. Options 61 will then inform the recipient via device 36 of the cost to the recipient to process the letter mail in the manner selected by the recipient. The recipient may then inform the post to deliver the letter mail in the manner selected by the recipient. The recipients selected manner of letter mail processing is forwarded to options rerouting controller 62. If the post specified time to deliver the letter mail has not been reached the letter mail is sent to recipient options 64 and delivered in the manner selected by the recipient in route mail options 65. Then options 65 informs manage mail data base 58 to archive the image and also to notify bill sender and pay carriers 66 to bill the recipient and pay the post. At this point the next letter mail image is ready to be processed.

The letter mail may then be delivered to the recipient at mail box 37 at a faster or slower rate than that selected by the sender; held by the post for a specified amount of time and then delivered to an address specified by the recipient; opened, and the contents of the letter mail faxed to recipient's selected fax numbers; opened, and the contents of the letter mail faxed to recipient's selected fax numbers and then the letter mail may be delivered to the physical address specified by the recipient; opened, and the contents of the letter mail e-mailed to recipient's selected e-mail addresses; or opened, and the contents of the letter mail e-mailed to recipient's selected e-mail addresses, and then the letter mail may be delivered to the physical address specified by the recipient. The

recipient may also have instructed the post to return the mail to the sender, to destroy the mail, or to recycle the paper in the letter mail. Options 61 will also send the cost of the recipient selected manner of delivery to bill recipient 66 so that data center 34 may inform the post to debit the recipients account or send a bill to the recipient.

VI GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED

A. Whether or not claims 1-14 and 20-31 are patentable under 35 USC §102(b) for being anticipated by Dimitri Kanevsky, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,777).

B. Whether or not claim 15 is patentable 35 USC §103(a) over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

C. Whether or not claim 16 is patentable 35 USC §103(a) over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

D. Whether or not claims 17 -19 are patentable 35 USC §103(a) over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

VII ARGUMENTS

A. Claims 1-14 and 20-31 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) for being anticipated by Dimitri Kanevsky, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,777).

Kanevsky, et al. discloses the following in col. 4, lines 32-36:

“At post office 14 an automatic process means 42 identifies whether the paper mail should be sent via surface mail routine or a e-mail via routine. Instructions on how to send a letter are left on the cover or envelope of the paper mail by the sender.”

Kanevsky, et al. discloses the following in col. 1, lines 33-48:

"Another object of the present invention is to provide a communication system wherein a user sends an internet message to a post office including the post mail address for delivery of the message. The post office forwards the internet message via e-mail to the internet equipped post office that is the closest to the addressee. This post office that is closed [sic] to the addressee downloads the internet message, prints a hard copy on a paper, encloses it in an envelope and delivers the hard copy to the address via usual local mail.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a communication system wherein a user sends paper mail to an internet equipped post office. The post office electronically scans the paper mail and forwards the scanned information data either to the address directly via the internet or via an internet equipped post office that is local to the addressee."

Kanevsky discloses a system in which a sender uses the internet to help in the delivery of physical mail.

Kanevsky does not disclose or anticipate the method claimed by Appellant in claims 1-14 and 20-31. Kanevsky does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of independent claim1, namely, notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail; notifying the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; and delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier. The recipient determines the manner in which mail is delivered in Appellant's claimed invention, whereas in Kanevsky, the sender determines the manner in which mail is delivered.

Some of the advantages of Appellant's claimed invention over the invention disclosed by Kanevsky et. al. are as follows. Sometimes, recipients of letters and packages like to know what letters and packages they are going to

receive before they receive them. For instance, if someone is going on a trip, they may want to receive their bills, i.e., credit cards, electric, gas, oil, hospital, doctor, etc. before they leave on the trip, so that they may pay the bills before a finance charge for late payment of the bill is applied to their account. Someone may also want to receive a package before they go on a trip so that they may take the contents of the package on the trip. The recipient may also want to delay delivery of a particular letter or package until they return from their trip. The reason for the foregoing may be that the recipient does not want to retrieve the letter or package at the post office or have the letter or package waiting at a vacant house.

B. Claim 15 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

Claim 15 is dependent on claim 1. Claim 15 adds the following to claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

In addition to the arguments presented in above Section A, please consider the following:

The Examiner stated the following on page 5 of the August 25, 2005, Final Rejection:

“As for claim 15: Kanevsky discloses a method, but lacks wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

Engendorf discloses a method wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower

delivery method than that paid for by the sender (fig. 1, displays the billing method), internet is used to collect payment.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kanevsky method in conjunction with Egendorf system to emulate a invention that deals with delivery of mail through the internet with billing procedures by way of internet, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin."

Egendorf discloses the following in line 39 of col. 4 to line 17 of col. 5.

"Referring to FIG. 1 a system for carrying out the method of the present invention is shown. In that system the Internet is shown schematically as network 1 to which providers 2,9, vendors 5.1-5.n, 36.1-6.n, and 8.1-8.n and customers 4.1-4.n and 10.1-10.n (where n is an integer to indicate a range from one to many) are connected in different ways.

Provider 2 is connected to access network 3 and the internet 1 and provides access to the Internet 1 for customers 4.1-4n and vendors 6.1-6n connected to access network 3. Access network 3 can be a telephone network, a cable television network an online services network such as Compuserve, American On-Line, or Prodigy, or a private Internet Access Network. Similarly, provider 9 is connected to access network 7 and the Internet 1 and provide access to the Internet 1 for customers 10.1-10n and vendors8.1-8n, Vendors 5.1-5n access the Internet directly by their own equipment.

In accordance with the method shown in the flow chart of FIG. 2, for example , in step 11 provider 2 establishes agreements with vendors 5.1-5n who are connected directly to the Internet, with vendors 6.1-6n who access the Internet via access network 3 and provider 2, and with vendors 8.1-8n who are connected to the Internet 1 via access network 7 and provider 9, to bill customers 4.1-4n for goods and services purchased by them over the Internet from vendors 5.1-5n and 8.1-8n. Provider 2 also agrees to remit a portion of the collected money back to the vendors. Provider 2 also establishes an agreement with each of customers 4.1-4n. These agreements provide that the provider will bill the customer for goods and services purchased by them over the Internet. The billing will be done to billing accounts established in connection with the agreements. The billing

accounts can be, for example, credit card accounts, telephone accounts, or bank accounts. The accounts need not be with the provider if the provider has a billing agreement in place with the party with whom the account was established.

As part of the services of the provider to customers 4.1-4n, the customers connected to the Internet 1 in step 12 at a desired time, typically by making contact via modem. Once connected to the Internet, the customer can interface with any one of the vendors 5.1-5n, 6.1-6n and 8.1-8n in order to find out about products or services offered by those vendors."

Egendorf discloses an internet billing method. Neither Kanevsky or Egendorf disclose or anticipate a method that enables the recipient to notify the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in rejecting a claim under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner is charged with the initial burden for providing a factual basis to support the obviousness conclusion. *In re Warner*, 379 F.2d 1011, 154 USPQ 173 (CCPA 1967); *in re Lunsford*, 375 F.2d 385, 148 USPQ 721 (CCPA 1966); *in re Freed*, 425 F.2d 785, 165 USPQ 570 (CCPA 1970). The Examiner is also required to explain how and why one having ordinary skill in the art would have been led to modify an applied reference and/or combine applied references to arrive at the claimed invention. *In re Ochiai*, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *in re Deuel*, 51 F.3d 1552, 34 USPQ 1210 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *in re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 837 F.2d 1044, 5 USPQ2d 1434 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In establishing the requisite motivation, it has been consistently held that both the suggestion and reasonable expectation of success must stem from the prior art itself, as a whole.

In re Ochiai, supra; *in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *in re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *in re Dow Chemical Co.*, 837 F.2d 469, 5 USPQ2d 1529 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

C. Claim 16 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

Claim 16 is dependent on claim 1. Claim 16 adds the following to claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a faster delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

In addition to the arguments presented in above Sections A and B, please consider the following:

Neither Kanevsky or Egendorf disclose or anticipate a method that enables the recipient to notify the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a faster delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

D Claims 17 -19 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) over Dimitri Kanevsky and further in view of Andrew Egendorf (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,221).

Claims 17 – 19 are dependent on claim 1. Claim 17 adds the following step to claim 1, charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail.

Claim 18 adds the following step to claim 1, charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

Claim 18 adds the following steps to claim 1, charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail; and charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

In addition to the arguments presented in above Sections A and B, please consider the following:

Neither Kanevsky or Egendorf disclose or anticipate a method that enables the recipient to notify the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a recipient specified method than that paid for by the recipient.

In view of the above Appellants respectfully submit that appealed claims 1 - 31 in this application are patentable. It is requested that the Board of Appeal overrule the Examiner and direct allowance of the rejected claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald Reichman", is written over a horizontal line.

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VIII APPENDIX OF CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

What is claimed is:

1. A method utilizing a computer system that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered, said method comprises the steps of:

depositing with the carrier mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address;

placing a unique number on the mail;

capturing by electronic and optical means the name, physical address of the recipient and the sender, and the unique number;

translating the name and physical address of the recipient into an e-mail address by checking a postal address database and the recipient's e-mail database;

notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail;

notifying the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered; and

delivering mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique number is placed on the mail by a postage meter before the mail is delivered to the carrier.

3. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique number is placed on the mail by a postage meter while the mail is delivered to the carrier.
4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique number is placed on a carrier label before the mail is delivered to the carrier.
5. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique number is placed on a carrier label while the mail is delivered to the carrier.
6. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique number is preprinted on a carrier label.
7. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to a specified name and address.
8. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to return the mail to the sender.
9. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to open the mail.
10. The method claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:

informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and

mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

11. The method claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:

informing the carrier to e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified e-mail addresses; and

mailing by e-mail the contents of the mailpiece to the specified e-mail addresses.

12. The method claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:

informing the carrier to send by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and

mailing by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.

13. The method claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:

informing the carrier to facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified facsimile numbers; and

sending by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the specified facsimile numbers.

14. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient at a different address.

15. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

16. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a faster delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

17. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail.

18. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

19. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail; and
charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

20. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:

informing the sender of the delivery of the mail.

21. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to hold the mail for a specified period of time.

22. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to destroy the mail.

23. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail.

24. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via e-mail of the availability of the deposited mail.

25. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via telephone of the availability of the deposited mail.

26. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via facsimile of the availability of the deposited mail.

27. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via television of the availability of the deposited mail.

28. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via e-mail of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

29. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via facsimile of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

30. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via telephone of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

31. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies a data center who notifies the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

IX EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no additional evidence to submit.

X RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

A. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/818,480 entitled "Recipient Elected Messaging Services For Mail That Is Transported In Trays Or Tubs" may directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

B. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/818,792 entitled "Recipient Elected Messaging Services" may directly affect or be directed affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.


C. An Appeal to the USPTO Board of Appeals has been filed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/817,998 entitled "Messaging Services For The Visually Impaired" may directly affect or be directed affected by or have a

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